

Christmas

Is it from the Bible - or Paganism?

People everywhere think Christmas to be the best of Christian holidays. Without asking any questions, they have assumed its observance is necessary. Today they go on assuming that Jesus was born on December 25th and that the Bible sets this day aside to be observed by Christians.

THIS IS A DECEPTION! There are certain facts of which we should be aware. Let us (supposedly representing a Christian nation) stop acting in ignorance.

The word 'Christmas' means 'mass of Christ', or as later shortened - 'Christ-mass'. It came to us as a Roman Catholic mass. But where did the Catholics get it? ... From the heathen celebration of December 25th, the birthday of 'Sol', the sun god! Celebration of this date was an ancient rite of Baalism - which the Bible condemns completely. **It is not mentioned in the New Testament**, or kept by Paul the Apostle, or the early **true church!** It is one of the fables Paul mentioned in 2. Timothy 4:4. He stated this observance would deceive the people of the world, side-tracking them into following a weak and powerless Gospel!

CHRISTMAS IS NOT CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY AT ALL. It is not of Christian origin, but is pagan, being Babylonian in origin. Some say, "Well, so what? It's the spirit of this time that counts".

Let us go a little further...

JESUS was not born on December 25th, nor was He born in the winter season. Why? Because there were shepherds in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night (Luke 2:8). By October 15th, in Palestine, the shepherds always brought their flocks from the mountains and fields, and corralled them for protection from the cold and rain that followed that date. (See Solomon's Song 2:11 and Ezra 10:9,13). Winter in Palestine is a rainy season and the shepherds remained indoors during this time. It was customary for the Jews of those days to send out their sheep to the fields and deserts about the time of the Passover (early spring), and to bring them home at the commencement of the first rain. The shepherds watched over their sheep night and day. Any encyclopaedia will tell you that Christ was not born on December 25th; the date of His birth is not known. If God had wanted man to be caught up in Babe worship at 'Christmas', He would have included directions in His Word and would not have kept the date hidden.

WE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THERE IS NOT ONE WORD IN THE BIBLE TELLING US TO OBSERVE 'CHRISTMAS'.

Recognised encyclopaedias indicate that Christmas was not observed in the first two or three hundred years after Christ was born. **HOW**, then, was a heathen custom introduced? **WHERE** was the real origin?

Nimrod, the grandson of Ham (one of Noah's sons), was the real instigator of the Babylonish system which has gripped the world ever since he lived. It was a system of organised competition, based on a profit-making economic system. Nimrod built the tower of Babel, ancient Nineveh and other cities. The name 'Nimrod' is Hebrew and derives from 'Marad', meaning 'he rebelled'. Nimrod was so evil that he married his own mother, whose name was Semiramis. After Nimrod's early death, his mother-wife propagated the evil doctrine of the survival of Nimrod as a spirit being. She claimed a full grown evergreen tree sprang overnight from a dead tree stump, which symbolised the springing forth into new life of the dead Nimrod. On each anniversary of his birth, she claimed Nimrod would visit the evergreen tree and leave gifts upon it. December 25th was the birthday of Nimrod: and **here we have the real origin of the 'Christmas tree'**.

Through her scheming, the Babylonians gradually came to regard Semiramis as the 'Queen of Heaven', and Nimrod, under various names, became the 'Divine Son of Heaven'. After generations of this idolatrous worship, Nimrod was also worshipped as the Messiah, the Son of Baal, and the Sun God. In this Babylonian system, the 'mother and child' (Semiramis and Nimrod reborn) became the chief objects of worship. This worship of 'mother and child' spread over the world, though the names varied in different countries and languages. In Egypt, it was 'Isis and Osiris', in Asia, 'Cybele and Dositheus', and in pagan Rome, 'Fortuna and Jupiter'. Even in Greece, Japan, China and Tibet researchers have found the counterpart of the Madonna - in evidence a long time before the birth of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world.

During the fourth and fifth centuries, when the pagans of the Roman world were accepting the new popular 'Christianity' in their thousands, carrying their old pagan customs and beliefs along with them under Christian sounding names, the Madonna 'mother and child' idea became very popular, especially at Christmas time. Every Christmas, people sing the hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" with the familiar 'mother and child' theme. We, today, have been born into a Babylonish world, brought up all our lives in a reverence of these forms as being sacred. **We have never queried where they come from; whether from the Bible or from pagan idolatry.**

OUR GOD COMMANDS that His people should "*Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression...*" (ISAIAH 58:1); and it is well that we recognise that the real origin of Christmas goes back to Babylon. It is bound up in organised satanic apostasy, now gripping the whole world. In Egypt, it was always believed that the son of 'Isis' (Egyptian name for 'Queen of Heaven') was born on December 25th. Therefore, paganism celebrated this famous birthday many centuries **before** Christ was born. **Nowhere in the Bible does it tell us to worship 'mother and child'**; the apostles and early church did not worship them and yet today we find people everywhere who consider it pagan not to!

In Luke 1:28, 42 and 48, Mary was shown to be highly blessed of God, but it does **not** say to deify her, to worship her, or make her a divine being when she was merely a human. The widespread worship of Mary as 'the mother of God' - the doctrine of immaculate conception, which refers to her as a counterfeit mediatrix between God and man - is a continuation of the ancient Babylonian idolatry begun by Semiramis, wife of Nimrod. It is a satanic deception which gets our eyes off Jesus Christ, the risen Lord - seated at God's right hand; not a babe now, not in the tomb, but seated with His Father, our God.

Thus, this ancient, idolatrous, pagan 'mystery' has been handed down through the pagan religions into the Roman Catholic Church, and from there into the Protestant denominations and the people in general.

Origin of Holly Wreath, Mistletoe and Yule Log:

Among ancient pagans, mistletoe was used at the Festival of the Winter Solstice because **it was considered sacred to the sun!** It was thought to have miraculous healing power. The pagan custom of kissing under the mistletoe took place early in the night of revelry and drunkenness, celebrating the death of the 'old sun' and the birth of the 'new sun'. Mistletoe, sacred in pagan

festivals, is a **parasite** and strangles the tree upon which it grows. Holly berries were also considered to be sacred to the sun god.

The Yule Log is, in reality, the 'sun log'; 'yule' means 'wheel', a pagan symbol of the sun. Yet, today, professing Christians speak of the "sacred Yuletide season". Even the lighting of fires and candles as a 'Christian' ceremony, is merely a continuation of the pagan custom encouraging the waning sun god as he reached the lowest place in the skies.

Santa Claus:

He, too, is of pagan origin. The name 'Santa Claus' is a corruption of the name 'Saint Nicholas', a Roman Catholic bishop who lived in the fifth century. Saint Nicholas was bishop of Myra, a 'Saint' who was honoured by the Greeks and Latins on December 6th. A legend of his surreptitious bestowal of dowries on the three daughters of an impoverished citizen is said to have originated the custom of giving presents in secret on the eve of Saint Nicholas' day (December 6th). This was subsequently transferred to Christmas day. Hence, we have the association of Christmas with Santa Claus.

The Christmas Tree:

It might be well, at this point, to see what the Bible has to say about Christmas trees.

"Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen... For the customs of the people are vain (i.e. vanity): for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not."

JEREMIAH 10:2-4

Note that we are told **not to learn that way or to follow that custom.**

Christmas Presents:

The **CHRISTMAS SHOPPING** season seems to be a most important part of the observance of Christmas. Many will say: "Well, the Bible tells us to give gifts. Didn't the wise men give gifts when Christ was born?"

WHAT IS THE HISTORIC ORIGIN OF TRADING GIFTS? Compare today's custom with what the Bible says:

The interchange of gifts between friends is a characteristic of both the Saturnalia Festival and Christmas (and was carried over from one to the other). The exchanging of gifts during the Christmas season has no single trace of Christianity. **This does not celebrate Christ's birthday, or honour Him!**

Suppose you want to honour someone on their birthday. Would you buy gifts for everyone else, and absolutely ignore any gift for the one whose birthday you are celebrating?

Yet, people do this (supposedly with religious intentions) year after year. Christ is not honoured at all, and presents are bestowed by most people upon their friends and relatives. People are too busy to think of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says:

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? ... And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

MATTHEW 2:1-11

Note that they enquired for the child Jesus who was born the King of the Jews, and **they presented only Jesus with gifts**, not their friends or one another. They came to honour their King.

To conclude, we should realise that there is **no scriptural foundation for the celebration of Christmas**. Both Christmas and Easter are commercialised pagan festivals, and the Apostle Paul indicated that Christians were not to go on observing even the scriptural Old Testament holidays (Galatians 4:9-11).

Mothers take their children to see a pagan 'Santa Claus' in shops; families come together to celebrate a festival begun many hundreds of years B.C. by a heathen people - **WHERE DOES CHRIST FIT IN?**

People are caught up in the materialism of today's world, deceived by God's adversary, and worshipping false gods. Much of the breakdown in the world order of today has been brought about by the nations worshipping another God, following another Jesus, and proclaiming a 'Gospel' which we **do not find in the Word of God**.

THE GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS) **OF GOD** IN REGARD TO SALVATION SAYS:

NOW IS THE TIME TO **REPENT** (Have a change of heart and turn to God),

BE BAPTISED (by immersion),

AND RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (with the evidence of speaking in tongues).
ACTS 2:38.

If you do not follow God's way of redemption - you are not redeemed:

ACTS 2:37-39 - A command and a promise to all who follow Christ:

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

(How can we know that we have received the Holy Spirit? Read Acts 2:4 again. As soon as a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, he or she will speak with other tongues.)

THIS IS THE WAY GIVEN IN GOD'S WORD - IT CANNOT BE CHANGED.

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